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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,177	08/17/2006	Sakac Koyata	P30044	3188
7055	7590	07/11/2007	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.			VINH, LAN	
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE				
RESTON, VA 20191			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1765	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/11/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/596,177	KOYATA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lan Vinh	1765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 091306.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nihonmatsu et al (US 2003/017107) in view of Hashii et al (US 20020016072)

Nihonmatsu discloses a method for processing wafer comprises the steps of:
a grinding step for grinding a top surface of a semiconductor after its having been lapped (page 13, paragraph 0167)
an etching step for etching the ground semiconductor wafer, said etching step comprises composite etching including an acid etching and an alkali etching which are performed in a predetermined sequence (page 13, paragraph 0169; fig. 1)
polishing both sides of the wafer/double polishing after the etching step to produce a wafer of which both sides are highly mirror-polished (page 2, paragraph 0024; page 15, paragraph 0193). Unlike the instant claimed invention as per claim 1, Nihonmatsu fails to explicitly disclose polishing the top surface of the etched semiconductor wafer, while at the same time polishing lightly a back surface of said etched semiconductor wafer during the double polishing step/simultaneously polishing both surfaces of the wafer
Hashii discloses a method for manufacturing semiconductor wafer comprises a step of polishing the top surface of the etched semiconductor wafer, while at the same time

polishing lightly a back surface of said etched semiconductor wafer/simultanueously
polishing both surfaces of the wafer after an etching step (page 3, paragraph 0038)

Hence, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it
obvious to modify Nishomatsu's step of polishing both sides of the wafer by
simultanueously polishing both surfaces of the wafer for the purpose of removing a
processing-induced strained layer that has arisen through a previous step while
maintaining a degree of flatness of the wafer flattened through the processing step as
taught by Hashii (page 3, paragraph 0035)

Regarding claim 2, Nihonmatsu discloses subjecting the wafer to an alkaline etching
and then a acid ethcing (page 13, paragraph 0169)

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Lan Vinh whose telephone number is 571 272 1471.
The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on 571 272 1465. The fax phone number for
the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



LV
July 5, 2007